

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05731 260747Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 ACDA-07 AID-05 /082 W

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R 260722Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8502

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA PFOR US KS

SUBJ: ROK PRESS PREDICTS UN CONFRONTATION

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES JULY 23, PRIOR TO RELEASE OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH, CARRIED LENGTHY FRONT PAGE HEADLINE STORY PREDICTING "SHOWDOWN" ON KOREAN ISSUE AT UN THIS YEAR. CITING "AUTHORITATIVE GOVERNMENT SOURCES", TIMES REPORTED THAT FORTHCOMING UNGA LIKELY TO STAGE ANOTHER NORTH/SOUTH VOTE CONFRONTATION AND THAT ROK LIKELY TO ANNOUNCE SOON ITS DETERMINATION TO RIVAL NORTH KOREAN EFFORTS. PRELIMINARY FIGHT ACCORDING TO TIMES EXPECTED AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETING. AFTER DESCRIBING CLOSE CONSULTATION GOING ON BETWEEN ROK, US, AND OTHER CORE MEMBERS, TIMES SOURCES ALSO DESCRIBE LOOMING CONFRONTATION AS "INEVITABLE."

2. IN RESPONSE POLCOUNS QUERY REGARDING TIMES REPORT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG WOO-YOUNG SAID ARTICLE WAS IN NO WAY AUTHORIZED AND DID NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL VIEW. WITHOUT DISPUTING SUBSTANCE OF PIECE HE AGREED THAT ATTRIBUTION TO ROKG SOURCE UNFORTUNATE AT THIS TIME WHEN MAJOR CORE GROUP EFFORT BEING MADE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. HE SAID ROKG MAKING EFFORTS TO QUASH THIS KIND OF SPECULATION BUT ROK PRESS WAS BEARING DOWN HARD ON UN PROSPECTS AND NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 05731 260747Z

TO CONTROL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL05731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760286-0554
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760721/aaaaaskq.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK PRESS PREDICTS UN CONFRONTATION
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SOPN, US, KS, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006